



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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MEMORANDUM

TO: MLDS Governing Board
FROM: Ross Goldstein, Executive Director
DATE: March 5, 2021
SUBJECT: 2021 Legislation

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update on legislation introduced during the 2021 Session of the Maryland General Assembly that impacts the MLDS Center.

Legislation

[HB 46 / SB 584](#) - Student Horizon Database and Scorecard (Students Right to Know Act of 2021)

This bill requires MSDE to annually collect information on:

1. In demand jobs, including starting salary and education levels required;
2. The cost of attendance for colleges and private career schools, student loan information, and graduation and completion rates;
3. Completion rate and starting salary of students in apprenticeship and CTE programs.
4. Salaries of students who enlist in the military; and
5. The number of college graduates working in occupations that do not require a college degree.

With the information collected, MSDE is required to provide a series of dashboards that provide the 50 highest enrolled college majors, vocational and private career schools, and CTE programs. The reporting must allow users to compare schools by a variety of factors, including cost, starting salary of graduates, diversity, ethnicity, family income brackets, student loan payments, enrollment or employment status eight years after high school graduation, graduations rates, and average debt. The bill also requires local school systems to distribute the scorecard to each high school student. The legislation directs MSDE to undertake the collection and development of the dashboards in collaboration with MHEC, Labor, and MLDS.

Fiscal Impact - It is not clear exactly what assistance and resources MSDE will require of the collaborating entities. However, this type of cross-sector data collection and reporting is a function that the MLDS Center was specifically created to address. Accordingly, the Horizon Database and Scorecard will likely require MLDS Center resources and expertise to produce.

The Center has some, but not all, of the data required for the scorecard. Additional staff resources will be needed to incorporate additional data elements into the system. The Center has also developed different reports and dashboards that are partially responsive to the scorecard, but do not meet the requirement of a consolidated searchable database with all of the components contemplated by the bill. Compiling and creating the scorecard will require the dedicated resources of an additional data analyst (approximately

\$70,000 annually) to manage the new data required under this bill and the services of a web developer contractor (approximately one time expenditure of \$200,000) to create the scorecard.

Status: This bill was heard in the House Appropriations Committee on February 10th and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on February 25th.

HB 320 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Transfer of Student Data - Modifications

This bill was introduced last year (HB 850) and passed the House but ran out of time due to the shortened legislative session.

The 2018 Career Preparation Act established a requirement for the Higher Education Commission to collect and provide the following information to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center:

- a. Professional and occupational licenses from Department of Labor and Department of Health;
- b. Vocational certificates from Maryland Community Colleges; and
- c. Industry certifications from a national certifier that receives state funds.

This bill fixes the legal and procedural issues with the law to allow the data to be collected directly by the MLDS Center. This data is important because it provides greater insights into career pathways and can help us better understand the outcomes of different programs that lead to professional and occupational licenses and careers. Specifically, the bill does the following:

- a. It has the MLDS Center directly collect the data, instead of the data being collected by the Higher Education Commission and then transferred to the Center because it is more secure to transfer the data once - as opposed to multiple times and it provides a more straightforward approach for all parties involved.
- b. The bill also specifies that the data provided must include personally identifiable information. This was added because the Department of Health indicated that without the specific statutory requirement, they could not disclose PII.
- c. The bill clarifies that the Health Occupation Boards, not the Secretary of the Department of Health are responsible for providing the data. This was done because the Health Occupations Boards are independent of the Secretary.
- d. The bill adds a representative of the executive directors of the Health Occupations Boards to the MLDS Governing Board, to address the Department of Health's concern about the lack of representation on the MLDS Governing Board.

Fiscal Impact: This bill does not create a fiscal impact; the requirements can be accommodated with existing resources.

Status: The bill received a favorable report by the Ways and Means Committee and passed the House of Delegates. The bill was sent to the Senate and referred to the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. No further updates are available.

HB 359 /SB 437 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Student Data - Pregnant and Parenting Students

This bill adds data on whether a student is or has been pregnant or is a parenting student to the definition of student data. This change would allow the Center to collect this information from MSDE (although this data is not currently collected by MSDE). A related bill, HB 401, establishes policy and reporting requirements for administering to the needs of pregnant and parenting students. HB 359 seeks to ensure that there is data for reporting and program analysis.

Fiscal Impact: This bill does not create a fiscal impact; the requirements can be accommodated with existing resources.

Status: The bill was heard by the Ways and Means Committee on January 27th and the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on February 25th. No further updates are available.

HB 854 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Inclusion of Out-of-Home Placement Data

This bill was introduced last year (HB 711) and passed the House but ran out of time due to the shortened legislative session. This bill alters the makeup of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) by adding individual-level placement data from State-sponsored out-of-home care as its own category. The placement data would be provided by the Social Services Administration (SSA) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) and would be linked to the student data and workforce data currently linked and maintained in the MLDS.

Adding to the purpose of the MLDS Center, the bill requires the MLDS Center to be responsible for generating timely and accurate information (in the form of a clear and easy-to-understand graphic data dashboard) about children who were provided with State-sponsored out-of-home care that can be used to improve the State's education and child welfare systems. In addition, the bill specifically requires an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on the experience of former out-of-home children and how out-of-home placement affected participation in high education.

Fiscal Impact: This new data from DHS would require additional staff support in the form of a full-time permanent position for an interagency liaison. The MLDS Center has a liaison position for the original partner agencies that provide student and workforce data (Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Higher Education Commission, and Maryland Department of Labor). The liaisons provide technical and administrative support for the partner agencies and provide the Center with subject matter expertise and management support in the use and administration of the data. The liaisons are fully funded by MLDS Center (approximately \$55,000 annually), but perform 50 percent of their job duties for the partner agency. This model has been very successful in ensuring good data governance and an efficient and collaborative working relationship with the partner agencies. Accordingly, providing a liaison position for DHS would be consistent with the existing operational model and would reduce the impact that DHS may incur from providing the data to the MLDS Center.

Status: This bill was heard by the Ways and Means Committee on February 12th. No further updates are available.

Action

Information only.